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tures for the institutions under the control of the department of education. In 1873 the amount was 460,823,423 *yen*; in 1890, 1,284,960,471 *yen*. It would be hard to think of any sub-province even of education which is not fully represented in this volume. The curricula of all the various kinds of schools, elementary, higher, normal, commercial, etc., are given in full. We wish there were room to reproduce them here. The book is a simple, straightforward account of the history and (mainly) present condition of education in Japan, doubtless the most remarkable and fascinating of all educational romances.

C. H. Thurber.

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#### NOTES.

*The Book of Elegies.* Edited with Notes. By JAMES BALDWIN, Ph.D. Boston: Silver, Burdett & Co. 1893.

This is a volume of selections illustrating the Elegy, intended chiefly for the use of schools. The first three selections consist of translations of the Song of Thyrsis, from the first Idyll of Theocritus, of Bion's Lament for Adonis, and of Moschus's Lament for Bion. Lang's version of the last is given and it seems a pity that his translation of the first two might not have been used. For the Lament of Adonis, besides the prose version of the Rev. J. Banks, the verse translation of Mrs. Browning is quoted.

Following these are printed Spenser's Astrophel, Shakspeare's Dirge for Imogen, Milton's Lycidas, Gray's Elegy, Shelley's Adonais, Tennyson's In Memoriam and about twenty short pieces from various sources. The text is annotated at considerable length and, in many of the longer poems, disfigured by numerals referring to the notes. Otherwise the book is very pleasing in appearance and not unlikely to be attractive to the general reader. The omission from the Book of Elegies of Arnold's Thyrsis, or of some of his "Later Poems" like Geist's Grave is noticeable.

*Studies of the Greek Poets.* By JOHN ADDINGTON SYMONDS. Third Edition. Macmillan & Co.

These volumes are "Studies" in the most ideal sense of the word, and as such have high educational value. As an English introduction to the Greek poets it would be difficult to compare anything else with them. As a whole, the work gains in this third edition by a rearrangement which has brought the parts in-

to better chronological order and by some important additions, especially in the way of translation. Otherwise the "Studies" remain substantially what they were in the second edition.

The merit of the work appears quite as conspicuous in the handling of minor topics as in that of larger ones, as, for example, the comic poets, comic fragments, and the new chapter on "Herondas and the Idyllists;" while the twenty-third chapter on "The Anthology," with its translations, is, from a popular point of view, perhaps the most altogether entertaining chapter of the entire work, a rare collection of quotable epigrams and verses.

*Prose Dictation Exercises from the English Classics.* Compiled by JAMES H. PENNIMAN.

This little volume is the work of an experienced, judicious, and successful teacher of English who has found that those students who are most familiar with good English literature have the least difficulty in composition. The obvious conclusion, that some of the time now devoted to the correction of bad English might and should be given to the careful study of a series of selections from our classic prose writers, elegant in expression, and also containing a definite idea, led the author, first, to look for a series of selections suited to his purpose, and then, not finding it, to make one. We have no hesitation in saying that he has done his work admirably well. The extracts are chosen in good taste. Printing words liable to be misspelled in italics is helpful. The hints to teachers are suggestive rather than exhaustive. We suppose there are teachers not quite satisfied with the work in composition. All such should examine Mr. Penniman's book.

*Sohrab & Rustum.* An Episode. By MATTHEW ARNOLD. New York: American Book Co. 1893. pp. 44.

As *Sohrab & Rustum* is one of the subjects for entrance examination in 1894, a convenient, cheap edition is desirable. The present edition contains an introduction of fourteen pages devoted to a sketch of Arnold's life and an account of the source of the poem. The notes are few and brief; some might easily be spared, and their place occupied by references to the numerous passages in Homer so exquisitely echoed in Arnold's lines.

*Tales from Spenser.* By SOPHIA M. MACLEHOSE. Macmillan & Co.

"The Faerie Queen" is the source of these tales, which are told as stories for children, with, happily, no attempt at interpretation or annotation. They are just stories. The book forms a part of Macmillan's School Library of books suitable for supplementary reading. We have already commented on the good make up of the books of this series.

*A Reader in Botany.* Part II. Flower and Fruit. By JANE H. NEWELL. pp. vi + 179. Ginn & Co. 1893.

In this little book the best German as well as English sources have been drawn upon to make a reader that is not only readable, but scientifically sound, and that furnishes in connection with Part I a charming introduction to the realm of nature through the science best adapted to early study and comprehension. The illustrations are good. Here are some of the chapter heads :

Cross Fertilization—Early Spring Flowers—The Dissemination of Pollen by the Wind—The Flowers of the Horsechestnut—Attractive and Protective Colors and Fruits—Weeds—How Seeds Travel—Habits of Insects in Relation to Flowers. Who would not read more?

*Life's Sunbeams and Shadows.* Poems and Prose. By JOHN COTTER PELTON. Published by the author. San Francisco.

This book is the very honest effort of one who in years past labored much for education in California and through misfortune finds himself in his old age deprived of means of support. The author does not claim any special literary gift ; indeed, it is his straightforward avowal of why the book came to be, that recommends him to our consideration even more than the many cordial commendations of leading men of the Pacific slope. The book makes a strong appeal to the sympathy of teachers.

*Herodotus, Books V. and VI.* Edited with Notes and Appendices By EVELYN ABBOTT, M.A., LL.D. Oxford : At the Clarendon Press. 1893. pp. viii + 347.

Dr. Abbott is well known as the author of a History of Greece, and it is for historical students chiefly that he has prepared his notes. The text is in the main that of Stein. There are numerous appendices on historical subjects, two maps and two indexes. Dr. Abbott proposes to complete the whole of Herodotus on the same plan.